

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-11 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 BIB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 707

INFO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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SUBJ: SUB-SAHARA AFRICA AT 25TH PARTY CONGRESS

1. SUMMARY. SUB-SAHARA AFRICA OVER THE WEEKEND FINALLY
BROKE INTO THE SCORING COLUMN AT THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS
AS THE DELEGATES FROM ANGOLA, THE CONGO, THE SOUTH AFRICAN
COMMUNIST PARTY, GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE SOUTHWEST AFRICA
PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) DELIVERED SPEECHES. ALTHOUGH
HIGHLIGHTED TO VARYING DEGREES, THE GENERAL THREADS RUNNING
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THROUGH THESE PRESENTATIONS WERE SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL

LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. AS WELL AS OPPOSITION TO THE WHITE REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AUDIENCE REACTION SEEMED LESS THAN PASSIONATE, AND COULD SUGGEST THE DELEGATES WERE MORE INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO COMPLIMENTS ABOUT PAST AND FUTURE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA RATHER THAN HEARING ABOUT LOCAL CONDITIONS WITHIN THE SPEAKERS' COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MPLA'S BATISTA (PRAVDA FEB 28) OPENED WITH A BOW TOWARD THE CPSU'S GENERAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND FOLLOWED WITH BLASTS AT THE TRADITIONAL ENEMIES OF AFRICA SUCH AS "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM", THE "FASCIST REGIME" OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND OTHER "REACTIONARY CIRCLES". HE DEVOTED A PERHAPS UNSEEMLY AMOUNT OF TIME TO PATTING NETO AND THE MPLA ON THE BACK BEFORE HE GOT AROUND TO GIVING SERIOUS THANKS TO THE SOVIET UNION AND "CUBAN BROTHERS" FOR THEIR HELP IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM. BATISTA NOTED THAT "ONE SOVIALIST COUNTRY" (READ CHINA) CHOSE TO SUPPORT THE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA. BATISTA BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OBSTACLES FACING THE MPLA, BUT HE FELT THAT COOPERATION WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WOULD OVERCOME THESE BARRIERS. HE CLOSED WITH THE WARNING THAT "IMPERIALISM HAS NOT LAID DOWN ITS ARMS" BUT IS READY FOR NEW ADVENTURES. EVEN THOUGH BATISTA'S SPEECH WAS BRIEFER THAN MOST OF HIS PREDECESSORS, HE DID RELATIVELY WELL ON THE MOSCOW APPLAUSE METER (14).

3. NEXT DAY (PRAVDA FEB 29) CONGOLESE SPOKESMAN JEAN-PIERRE TCHISTER TCHIKAYA WENT TO THE PODIUM AND UNLEASHED SOME BROADSIDES AT CAPITALISM, COLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM, RACISM, AND APARTHEID. THE CONGOLESE LAUDED THE DEFEAT OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM" IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND TOUCHED ON THE "BATTLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM" BEING WAGED IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND LATIN AMERICA. IN AFRICA, HE POINTED OUT THE VICTORIES ALREADY WON IN GUINEA-BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE, AND ANGOLA, WHERE, HE ADDED, AMERICAN IMPERIALISM AND SOUTH AFRICAN RACISM WERE VANQUISHED. A REASONABLY LONG PASSAGE ON THE ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHING THE CONGO WAS GREETED BY LOUD SILENCE, AND REDUCED HIS OVERALL APPLAUSE COUNT TO 8.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY REPRESENTATIVE DADU FEB 29 (PRAVDA MARCH 1) FOCUSED ON THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND AFRICAN ACHIEVEMENTS OF "PROTLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM", BUT EVEN HIS BLASTS AT MAOISTS WHO COOPERATE WITH INTERNATIONAL REACTION EVOKED NO AUDIENCE RESPONSE.

TOWARD THE END OF HIS ADDRESS, DADU DIRECTED HIS ATTENTION TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE, AND NAMIBIA, AND CLAIMED THE SITUATIONS IN THE LATTER TWO COUNTRIES CAN BE ALTERED "IN THE NEAREST FUTURE." DADU CALLED SOUTH AFRICA THE "MAIN CITADEL OF IMPERIALISM ON THE CONTINENT", AND ADDED THAT THERE CAN BE "NO COMPROMISE WITH RACISM AND IMPERIALIST POWER." HE RECEIVED APPLAUSE ONLY FIVE TIMES.

5. THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION FROM GUINEA-BISSAU, FRANCISCO MENDESA, FOLLOWED DADU TO THE PODIUM, AND HIT A SENSITIVE NOTE IN THE AUDIENCE (14 ON THE APPLAUSE METER) BY BEING THE MOST SLAVISH TOWARD BREZHNEV, THE CPSU, AND THE SOVIET UNION IN GENERAL. MENDESA OFFERED PRACTICALLY NOTHING MORE ON THE GENERAL EVENTS IN AFRICA.

6. SWAPO'S MOSES GAROIBA (PRAVDA, MARCH 2) GAVE THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE (RELATIVELY SPEAKING) PRESENTATION. FOLLOWING THE REQUIRED NODS TO LENIN, THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, AND THE PARTY CONGRESS, GAROIBA EMPHASIZED THAT HIS MOVEMENT HAPPILY LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING THE "MORAL, POLITICAL, AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT" OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT IS WHY THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA "ARE DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT VICTORY WILL BE OURS". THE SUCCESS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, HE CONTINUED, IS CAUSING "PANIC" IN THE IMPERIALIST CAMP, AND THEREFORE THE "RACISTS AND IMPERIALISTS" ARE "RAISING A CLAMOR" ABOUT SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION. ACCORDING TO GAROIBA, THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE MERELY "FULFILLING THEIR INTERNATIONAL DUTY" BY HELPING THOSE STRUGGLING FOR FREEDOM. HE ADDED THAT THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FORCES IN ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, AND SOUTH AFRICA ARE "READYING THEMSELVES FOR THE DECISIVE BATTLES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST THE RACIST REGIMES". GAROIBA CITED BREZHNEV'S WORDS PLEDGING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND CLOSED WITH THE CONFIDENT STATEMENT THAT "WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT THE SOVIET UNION" WILL EXTEND SUPPORT TO SWAPO AND NAMIBIA, AND HE HOPED SWAPO "WOULD BE DESERVING OF THIS SUPPORT". THIS AND EIGHT OTHER REMARKS ELICITED AUDIENCE APPLAUSE, INDICATING THAT GAROIBA'S RELATIVELY BRIEF SPEECH WAS FAIRLY POPULAR.

7. COMMENT. NOT SURPRISINGLY, SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND OPPOSITION TO THE REGIMES IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA WERE THE GENERAL THREADS RUNNING THROUGH THESE PRESENTATIONS. THE TEA LEAVES OF AUDIENCE REACTION, HOWEVER, REVEAL THAT THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES-- AGAIN UNSURPRISINGLY--GENERALLY WERE LESS INTERESTED IN

HEARING ABOUT THE SITUATION WITHIN AFRICA THAN THEY
WERE IN HEARING PRAISE FOR PAST AND POTENTIAL SOVIET
INFLUENCE OVER AFRICAN EVENTS.
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